DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 373 939 RC 019 724

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TITLE	Ringing the Children In: Texas Country Schools.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-89096-290-1
PUB DATE	87
NOTE	253p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C (Lindsey Bldg., Lewis Street), College Station, TX 77843-4354 ($16.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Historical Materials (060) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Community Schools; *Consolidated Schools; *Educational History; Elementary Secondary Education; *One Teacher Schools; Oral History; Personal Narratives; Rural Education; *Rural Schools; *School Community Relationship; Student Attitudes; Teacher Attitudes; *Teaching Experience
IDENTIFIERS	*Texas

ABSTRACT

This book explores the country schoolhouses of Texas' rural past. Sources include interviews with dozens of former country schoolteachers and students and first-person narratives collected from written works. Chapters cover the following topics: (1) history of public education and country schools in Texas; (2) distance travelled by teachers and students, usually on foot, to get to school; (3) the political issue of location of the school; (4) reminiscences by teachers of the first day of the school year and the first day of teaching; (5) types of school buildings, and problems in obtaining water, heat, and toilet facilities; (6) daily schedules, subjects taught, and teaching strategies; (7) provision of food at school, recess activities, and sports; (8) discipline; (9) the school as a center for community entertainment; (10) teacher credentials, teacher role, and requirements of trustees; (11) consolidation of small rural schools; and (12) the advantages of small, rural schools. Contains numerous photographs, notes, a selected bibliography, and an index. (KS)

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